

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

MARCH 9, 2004

The County Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures reports that private companies are short-changing customers who turn in bottles and cans under the State's recycling program. While inadvertent mistakes may occur due to malfunctions on scales or simple human error, it would appear that certain recyclers are habitual offenders who continually cheat the public and pocket the difference.

The recycling of used beverage containers is critical to reducing the waste stream into landfills throughout the State of California. Landfill space is at a premium, and very few new landfills are being constructed. A combination of waste diversion measures, such as curb-side recycling, composting of green materials, and the refunds on beverage containers, has made a substantial contribution to reducing the waste stream.

The County regulates weights and measures in all cities and unincorporated areas in Los Angeles. It is essential that the public have confidence in this system. When County residents learn that they may be receiving 20-30% less than they should for recycled materials, it undermines governmental efforts to encourage recycling. While the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures should be commended for discovering these errors, it is important that the County implement measures necessary to punish repeat violators and insure the integrity of the system. The District Attorney should prosecute those recyclers who are not taking the necessary corrective measures.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
KNABE	_____

Page: 2

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

- Direct the Agriculture Commissioner/Weights and Measures to continue its investigation of recyclers and identify steps that will be taken to correct violations, particularly offenses by habitual offenders, and report back to the Board of Supervisors within 60 days.
- Request the District Attorney to review the status of referrals by the Agriculture Commissioner/Weights and Measures with respect to prosecution of recyclers that repeatedly fail to comply with County requirements and report back to the Board of Supervisors within 60 days.

#

MDA:pno
recycling